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FOOL-PROOF LEGISLATION

Yes, "anyone can get a drink that wants it."

Prosperous Michael Kulik, on his wedding, dropped into a bootlegger's and had two drinks. He fainted at the wedding. Next morning woke up blind. Answer? Wood alcohol. Three years later, to a day, he gropes into the county recorder's office, says he is broke, has been evicted by his landlord. He goes to the poor house at Laurel Hill, N. J.

Yes, you can get a drink any time you want it.

Wood alcohol now is killing 260 and blinding 44 Americans a year. This is the report of the Russell Sage Foundation's national committee for prevention of blindness. The figures, however, cover only the known cases. The unknown victims of wood alcohol number many more.

"Many relatives and friends of victims try to conceal the real cause of death, and in some cases succeed," says the committee's secretary, Mrs. Winifred Hathaway. Obviously, she is right. For more than half of the 130 fatal cases of wood alcohol poisoning reported to her committee in the first six months this year were in three states—New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Smuggling hootch is common along the seacoasts. As you get farther inland, the liquor keeps getting harder to secure, which means worse quality.

In Pennsylvania the known deaths due to wood alcohol last year totaled 61. Figuring on a population basis, wood alcohol deaths in all the states combined would be around 800 a year. Including unreported cases, wood alcohol's death toll probably exceeds 1,500 a year.

The national government stands convicted of criminal negligence in not taking real steps to prevent the use of wood alcohol as a beverage.

Any high-grade chemist could find a way. Before manufacturers were permitted to super-clarify wood alcohol "for use in the arts and allied professions" any one with a sense of smell could detect wood alcohol a yard away. Now it is refined until, in adulterated form, it smells like old Kentucky rye. Only a chemist can detect it.

The problem of prohibition enforcement is not an easy one. So great a change from the habits of generations is going to take a generation to be effected. Just the same—think back—prohibition is so effective that it is hardly possible to recall the days of saloon-lined streets with staggering figures issuing forth with no more notice than a shudder of repugnance. Today we talk and hear much talk of less drinking.

The wood alcohol menace is one of the by-products of law defiance. The law-defier pays a heavy penalty. And as prohibition came because there were men so weak that they abused the drinking habit, so there are weak men who must be protected from this by-product. Why not color all wood alcohol black or restore its natural odor?

The Chinese would solve the problem by beheading anyone selling wood alcohol for a beverage. That, of course, is not humane enough for us. We Americans prefer to spare the bootlegger and kill the victim.

An obvious labelling of wood alcohol as such would be one means of sparing the life of those weak mortals who need protection. Life has to be made fool-proof for a certain per cent of the population.

AN EDUCATED NATION IN TEN YEARS

It is rather a shock to be told that we are a sixth grade nation. The war draft taught us a lot about ourselves we didn't know before. And from some of the other startling revelations of the draft there is no cause to question the reliability of this indictment against our educational rating as a nation. One of the encouraging things, however, is that it is the teaching profession itself which voices much of the criticism of our educational system. This fact alone is hopeful. There are not many such instances where an institution criticized is so willing to accept honest criticism and so eager to correct its faults. Good teachers are always looking for further information and inspiration for the work to which they are unselfishly devoted.

It is no small job we face to lift ourselves out of our illiteracy. But it is not a hopeless one. America has accomplished prodigious things. And if she wills it, there is no reason why she cannot become an educated nation in ten or fifteen years. That is a big order, an encouragingly big order if we look how far we have come; but a discouragingly big order if we look ahead to where we might be.

This nation started right and up to a certain point built right. We had the impulse to get all children to school—but without very intelligent or comprehensive thought as to what quality of school. Now we have come to possess an ideal of education. We are beginning to realize that children are not all the same; that there are different kinds and different degrees of intelligence instead of

all being fools who do not measure up to a certain yardstick; that some must be trained for leadership and others for the just as necessary routine.

For years the United States department of agriculture has issued bulletins on the proper care of pigs and cows and chickens. We have just lately come around to those thoughts on children. A country is doomed which does not spend thought and money on its schools. The country is headed right when it has come at last to the realization of its responsibility to the children. We gave them a promissory note for their education. That note is falling due. It must be paid. There are still 1,000,000 American children between the ages of 10 and 15 working for a living. This is bad but it is better, the census shows, than ten years ago. It is not as good as it must be ten years from now. We are beginning to study the child and educate him as an individual rather than a stereotyped group. As a nation we are building a high school every day in the year. And we are going from the picturesque but inefficient "little red school house" to the consolidated school, with its better equipment and better teachers.

If all is true that historians and orators have said of the importance of the school, the teachers are about the most important group of men and women in America. It is a foolish person who questions that statement. There is an unmatched loyalty to a profession. And more and more as teachers begin to respect their profession as they are devoted to it, they will compel the respect of the public.

In a locality that has a strong teachers' association and an active intelligent organization of the mothers, it is a safe guess that the children are being well taught by experts and being kept healthy in decent buildings. But if teachers are too indifferent to get together to discuss the problems of their work, and if the mothers are too indifferent to band themselves together, it is a safe guess that the children are being cheated as to both their mental and physical welfare.

Thomas Jefferson gave us our public school system than which there is none better. We have builded on that idea until today we have an ideal, if we are but a sixth grade nation.

Just as a great city may be swept by fire or covered with a tidal wave only to rebuild a bigger and better city, just so our idea that we are an educated nation has been rudely shattered only to be built up again better and stronger. We can be an educated nation in ten years if Americans will it so.

RADIO WILL FILL TENTS AND HALLS

In most towns by this time the annual Chautauqua is over or soon will be. September and October are the county and state fair months. These are the big get-together festivals of the American people.

We talked recently with a radio expert and enthusiast who enumerated at length the inestimable benefits, both recreational and educational, of this marvelous little mechanism. Rather boastfully he said, "Radio will ultimately eliminate the Chautauqua, the lecture and entertainment platform."

He predicted that the itinerant musician will stay in his studio and the lecturer in his library, while the country folk from Maine to Oregon will need only to open up their receivers and a perpetual Chautauqua is theirs at their firesides.

In answer to all this, we said, "Well, we are still going to have our fairs."

"Yes," he said, "that's because the fair is a thing to SEE, not to hear."

"That," we replied, "is why the Chautauqua is as secure as the fair. The eye is a greater educator than the ear."

We learn more by seeing than by hearing. The concert violinist puts personality into the bending of his bow. His manner quite as much as his music becomes part of the emotion. We may hear him a hundred times a year but we do not get the full message of his melody until we see him invest himself in his fiddle.

Oratory is still good when reduced to type and put in a book. But the oratory that sways with inspiration and convinces most has the personality of the man as well as the abstract thought of the theme.

"Seeing is believing," runs the ancient adage. A positive person is more convincing than an abstract principle.

Radio will add to our wealth of education, entertainment, and inspiration, but it will subtract nothing.

The multiplication of good roads is going to bring the country folk out to see the master minds that they may better appreciate the worth of all the radio brings to them in their homes.

Nor did our friend take into his too quick deduction the human hunger for fellowship. We like to be together, to hear and see good things together. We love to laugh together. When our hearts are touched with sweet sentiments, deep emotions, we like to feel the comradeship of company. We want to applaud together. Whoever heard a hermit hurrah?

We like to greet friends. It's nice to be neighbors. It's fun to say "howdy." It is living to ask, "Did you hear that, or see this?" We like to SEE what we can do. We like to see what the other fellow can do. That's why we go to the county fair and the state fair; that's why we go to the Chautauqua tent and the Lyceum hall. That's why the movie lures.

The radio is going to make us want more and not less. It is going to whet our appetites for more fine things and more fellowship with fine things. Radio is going to draw together talent and attendance. It is going to fill our tents and halls.

It's about equal. Poor dodge autos and rich dodge baby buggies.

What has become of all those cures for the drink habit you used to see advertised?

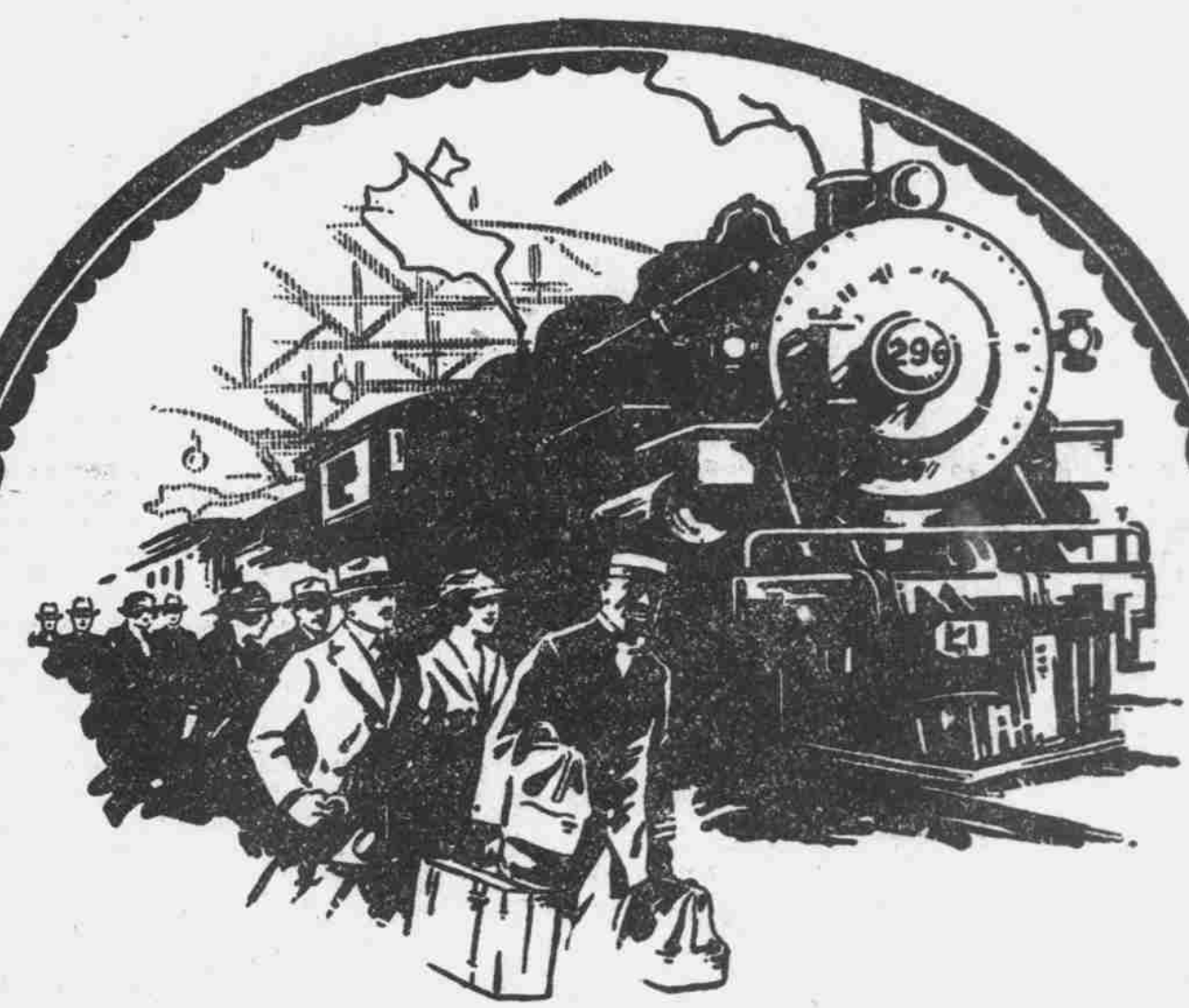
"Russia Wants Credit"—headline. Credit for what?

Wives of great men often remind them.

Movie star usually keeps a diary. Then she can look back and tell who her husbands were.

Don't give advice unless you use the same brand.

HE CAN NOW RESUME HIS JOURNEY



Many Trains Are Run At A Loss To Benefit The Traveling Public

By a careful compilation of cost figures during the first three months of 1922, it is estimated that the average expense per mile of operating an American railroad passenger train is approximately \$1.69. This figure together with the statement of train earnings shown below, offers concrete evidence of the fact that many railroad trains are run at a loss, for the benefit of the traveling public.

Some Louisville & Nashville Train Earnings

Substantiating the statement in the headline of this advertisement, the following figures for the month of June, 1922, should interest the readers of this newspaper:

Train No. 6, leaving Pensacola at 6 A. M. and arriving at Flomaton at 7:41 A. M., during the month of June, 1922, earned 92c per mile. This is an accommodation train, making a number of local stops, and is run entirely for the convenience of L. & N. patrons and in order to complete the passenger service for both through and local travel between these points.

These figures are illuminative, in that they show the disposition of this railroad to provide an exceptionally high type of passenger service to its patrons, although during even the busiest vacation season many trains do not earn the actual cost of operation.



THE OLD RELIABLE

No discontinuation of passenger service. Notwithstanding the severe conditions under which the railroads have been obliged to operate during the past two months, the L. & N., up to the present time, has not found it necessary to discontinue any of its passenger train or sleeping car service.